

Message Text

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FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 DODE-00
PM-04 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 IGA-02 ACDA-10 MC-02
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SUBJECT: IGGI 20

REF: (A) STATE 48556 (NOTAL), (B) JAKARTA 2003, (C) THE HAGUE A-24

1. SUMMARY. HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDONESIA AND ESPECIALLY IN EAST TIMOR CONTINUE TO BE OF CONCERN IN THE NETHERLANDS BUT THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE CLEAR THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDONESIA WILL NOT AFFECT DUTCH AID TO THAT COUNTRY IN 1977 NOR STOP THE CONSTRUCTION BY DUTCH SHIPYARDS OF THREE CORVETTES FOR THE INDONESIA NAVY. END SUMMARY.

2. OPPONENTS OF DUTCH AID TO INDONESIA HAVE LONG SUPPORTED THEIR ARGUMENTS BY CITING THE NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THAT COUNTRY AND MORE RECENTLY THE EVENTS IN EAST TIMOR. RETURNING FROM A VISIT TO INDONESIA LAST APRIL, DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MINISTER PRONK SAID THAT HE WOULD SUBMIT A NOTE TO PARLIAMENT IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER ANSWERING THREE QUESTIONS: (1) DOES DEVELOPMENT AID BENEFIT THE POOREST INDONESIANS? (2) IS THERE ANY IMPROVEMENT IN INDONESIAN HUMAN RIGHTS AND PARTICULARLY THE FATE OF
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POLITICAL PRISONERS? (3) WHAT HAS BEEN THE EFFECT OF DUTCH AID IN THE PAST FEW YEARS? IN LIGHT OF THE NON-APPEARANCE OF PRONK'S REPORT, THERE HAS BEEN SOME PRODDING OF THE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MINISTER. DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 3 IN WHICH HE ANNOUNCED THE AMOUNTS OF DUTCH ASSISTANCE ALLOCATED FOR 1977 TO 16 PRIORITY COUNTRIES INCLUDING INDONESIA (THE HAGUE A-24), PRONK

REPLIED TO THIS CRITICISM BY SAYING THAT THE NOTE WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT IN TIME TO DECIDE BEFORE THE NETHERLANDS' MAY 25 ELECTIONS WHETHER AID TO INDONESIA COULD BE CONTINUED. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE DECISION WILL NOT EFFECT DUTCH AID IN 1977. WE WILL SEND A COPY OF PRONK'S REPORT AS SOON AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

3. MORE RECENTLY THE QUESTION OF INDONESIAN HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BECOME EMBROILED WITH A POCKET BOOK ISSUE, WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD LICENSE THE EXPORT OF THREE COR-VETTES FOR THE INDONESIAN NAVY. WORK ON THE CORVETTES IS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAINING EMPLOYMENT AT ONE OF THE MAJOR DUTCH SHIPYARDS WHICH, LIKE THE REST OF THE COUNTRY'S SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY, IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. THE SECOND CHAMBER OF PRLIAMENT WILL VOTE THIS WEEK ON A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNMENT NOT TO PERMIT THE EXPORT OF WARSHIPS TO INDONESIA BECAUSE THEY MIGHT BE USED IN THE WATERS OF EAST TIMOR. A BRIEF DEBATE ON THE ISSUE MARCH 3 INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE MOTION WILL BE THROWN OUT. THE GOVERNMENT WON WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR ITS STAND THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SHIPS SHOULD NOT BE STOPPED AT THIS STAGE. BUT THE GOVERNMENT SAID THAT IT MAY RECONSIDER ITS POSITION WHEN THE VESSELS ARE TO BE DELIVERED BETWEEN 1979 AND 1981 IF THERE IS ANY EVIDENCE THAT THEY WILL BE DEPLOYED IN THE WATERS AROUND THE FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONY.

4. EXPLAINING THE GOVERNMENT'S STAND, FOREIGN MINISTER
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VAN DER STOEL SAID THAT "THE NETHERLANDS CONDEMNS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ANYWHERE. THE NETHERLANDS IS PURSUING A CAREFUL POLICY TOWARD INDONESIA. THE RELATIONSHIP IS MOST SENSITIVE. BUT EVENTS WHICH STIR THE DUTCH, LIKE THE TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, ARE REPEATEDLY DISCUSSED IN OUR CONTACTS." PRONK USED THE OCCASION OF THE DEBATE TO ADMIT THAT HE HAD SPOKEN CARELESSLY IN SAYING EARLIER THAT THE EXPORT LICENSE WOULD BE RECONSIDERED BECAUSE OF THE EVENTS IN EAST TIMOR.
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Disposition Event:
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